

ANOUS STOLIDUS (L.) ; Salvad. *t. c.* p. 379.

a, b. ♂ ♀. Bintulu. Iris very dark brown ; bill black ; legs soot-brown.

[These birds are scarce on the Sarawak coast. The above pair made their appearance, along with two or three more, in a gale of wind during the N.E. monsoon.—A. E.]

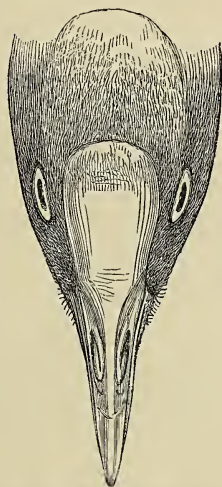
II.—*Description of a new Moorhen from the Hawaiian Islands.*

By THOMAS H. STREETS, M.D., U.S. Navy.

GALLINULA SANDVICENSIS, sp. nov.

Gallinula chloropus, Peale, Orn. U.S. Expl. Exp. p. 220.

G. Gallinulae chloropodi sat similis, sed major, alis brevioribus, clypeo frontali multo majore, coloribus saturatoribus, abdomine concolori, campterio vix albo, tarsi antice rubescentibus.



Frontal shield of *Gallinula sandvicensis*.

Frontal plate very large, terminating square on the top of the head, much inflated, its posterior margin on a line with the posterior margin of the orbit ; laterally it encroaches on the orbit, leaving but a narrow feathered space between them ; the bill shorter than the head, thick, compressed ; wings

rather short in proportion to the size of the species when compared with other species of the same group; first primary shorter than second, the second and third of equal length, the rest graduated; tail short; tarsus rather long and stout, rounded in front, and compressed posteriorly; toes and claws long and robust.

The entire under surface of the body of one colour, which is a dark slaty; no marks of white on the abdomen; the head and neck all around much darker than the rest of the body, nearly black, with a slight brownish tinge; a few of the long feathers on the flanks with long spots of white on the superior web of the feathers; the edge of the wing at the bend, and the outer margin of the outer web of the first primary marked with a very constricted line of white; the under surface of the wings of the same colour as the under-parts of the body; the longer under tail-coverts pure white, the rest black; the entire upper parts, including the upper surface of the wings and tail, olive-brown, the colour deepest on the rump, and fading out on the neck and on the exterior portions of the wings; the tips of the tail-feathers, and the shafts of the feathers, brownish black; frontal plate and bill bright crimson, the latter tipped with yellow; the tibia naked for about an inch, and surrounded by a bright crimson ring; a decided crimson blush on the front of the tarsus, the colour deeper on the sides; feet pea-green.

Total length about 13.50 inches; wing 6.50; tail 3; bill along the commissure 1.20, from the feathers on the side of the head 1, along the culmen, including the frontal plate, 1.65; breadth of the frontal plate 0.50; length from the margin of the feathers on the side of the bill 0.70; tarsus 2; middle toe and claw 3.

To sum up, the proportions of the bird and the quadrate form of the frontal plate show that its strongest affinities are with *G. galeata* rather than with any other member of the group; but the greater extent of the frontal plate, the shorter wing, the absence of white on the abdomen and on the under surface of the wing, as well as its reduction to a mere trace on the margin of the same, the more robust and different

form of the tarsus, being broader and more rounded in front, as well as the great difference in the colour of the tarsus, separate it immediately from *G. galeata*, and render its identification easy. The characters just enumerated, in addition to its larger size and the quadrate frontal plate, separate it, *a fortiori*, from *G. chloropus*.

Habitat. Island of Oahu, Hawaiian Group.

The only direct reference to this bird which I have been able to find is made by Peale, in his 'Ornithology of the U.S. Exploring Expedition,' p. 220. He undoubtedly obtained a specimen from the island of Oahu; but the skin was lost. In the description, which he gives from his field-notes, he states it to be *G. chloropus*, Aud., i. e. *G. galeata*. The allusion which he makes, however, to the crimson-coloured tarsi identifies it with this species at once.

Gray, in his 'Hand-list of Birds,' gives the Sandwich Islands as a habitat of *G. chloropus*, Aud., as do also Hartlaub and Finsch, in the table of distribution of Central-Polynesian birds, which they give in the introduction to their work 'Die Ornithologie der Viti-, Samoa und Tonga Inseln.' It is very probable that both of these authorities based their statements upon Peale's original reference.

III.—Notes on some Birds observed in the Chuput Valley, Patagonia, and in the neighbouring District. By HENRY DURNFORD*.

HEARING on the 25th October last that a steamer was to leave Buenos Ayres that afternoon for the Welsh colony at Chuput, I decided to accompany her, and having hastily packed the few things necessary, at 4 o'clock found myself on board the 'Santa Rosa,' lying in the outer roads. Our party consisted of three, my two friends being as anxious as myself to see a

* [The skins sent home by Mr. Durnford have been examined and determined by Mr. Salvin. The nomenclature used is generally that of the 'Nomenclator Av. Neotrop.' For general information concerning the Welsh colony of Chuput, see "Reports received by the Admiralty from Capt. H. Fairfax, R.N., of H.M.S. 'Volage,' upon the Condition of the Welsh Colony of Chuput in Patagonia" (Parl. Papers, No. 18, of 1876).—ED.]